AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 54-69, 71-74, 76-84, and 86-99 are pending in the application. Claims 69 and 79 are currently amended to correct minor informalities, without acquiescence in cited basis for rejection or prejudice to pursue in a related application. A complete listing of the current pending claims is provided below and supersedes all previous claim listing(s). No new matter has been added.

1-53.   (Cancelled)

54.   (Previously Presented) A method of providing remotely located circuit design resources, the method comprising:

connecting one or more user nodes to an application and web server over a distributed electronic network;

connecting one or more supplier nodes to the application and web server over the distributed electronic network;

making available one or more circuit design resources through the application and web server, at least one of the one or more circuit design resources being located on one of the one or more user and one or more supplier nodes;

ranking the one or more integrated circuit design resources based upon a prior usage information of a user at the application and web server;

receiving one or more requests from the user for access to the one or more circuit design resources available through the application and web server and not located on the one or more user node;

automatically responding to the one or more requests from the user with a result of the ranking the one or more integrated circuit design resources in response to the one or more requests;

maintaining profile and context data of one or more users or suppliers; and

suggesting to the user a next action at the application and web server based upon the context and profile data.

55.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 54, wherein the one or more circuit design resources comprise component data, the component data being stored in one or more databases located on the application and web server and/or on at least one of the one or more user and supplier nodes.

56.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 55, wherein the component data comprises component data sheets, timing models, application notes, simulation models, and/or signal integrity models.

57.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 54, wherein the one or more circuit design resources comprise one or more virtual circuit blocks, each of the one or more virtual component blocks being stored in one or more databases located on the application and web server and/or on at least one of the one or more user and supplier nodes.

58.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 54, wherein the one or more circuit design resources comprise one or more electronic design automation tools.

59.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 54, wherein the one or more circuit design resources comprise a ranked listing of suppliers of integrated circuit fabrication services or information on expert design services.

60.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 54, wherein the one or more circuit design resources comprise information on expert design services.

61.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 54, in which the step of automatically responding to the one or more requests from the one or more user nodes comprises:

> determining whether each of the requested one or more circuit design resources is located on the application and web server;

> acquiring each of the requested one or more circuit design resources not located on the application and web server from at least one of the one or more user and supplier nodes; and

> transmitting the requested one or more circuit design resources to the one or more user nodes.

62.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 54, in which automatically responding to the one or more requests from the one or more user nodes comprises:

> determining whether each of the requested one or more circuit design resources is located on the application and web server; and

> providing information to the one or more user nodes on how to access each of the requested one or more circuit design resources not located on the application and web server.

63.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 62, in which the information provided to the one or more user nodes comprises linking information to at least one of the one or more user and supplier nodes where the requested one or more circuit design resources are located.

64.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 54, in which the step of automatically responding to the one or more requests from the one or more user nodes comprises:

> determining whether each of the requested one or more circuit design resources is located on the application and web server; and

> sending information to the one or more user nodes on how to obtain each of the requested one or more circuit design resources not located on the application and web server.

65.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 64, in which the information sent to the one or more user nodes comprises a username and password.

66.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 54, wherein automatically responding to the one or more requests from the one or more user nodes comprises:

> determining whether each of the one or more requests from the one or more user nodes can be fulfilled at the application and web server; and

> forwarding each of the one or more requests that cannot be fulfilled at the application and web server to at least one of the one or more user and supplier nodes.

67.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 54, further comprising:

> maintaining prior usage information relating to the one or more requests received from one or more users.

68.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 54, further comprising:

   maintaining profile data of one or more users or suppliers at the application and web
       server.

69.   (Currently Amended) A computer program product that includes a computer readable
medium, the computer readable medium comprising instructions which, when executed by a
processor, causes the processor to execute a process for providing remotely located circuit design
resources, the process comprising:

   connecting one or more user nodes for one or more users to an application and web server
       over a distributed electronic network;

   connecting one or more supplier nodes to the application and web server over the
       distributed electronic network;

   making available one or more circuit design resources through the application and web
       server, at least one of the one or more circuit design resources being located on one of
       the one or more user and one or more supplier nodes;

   ranking the one or more circuit design resources based upon a prior activity of a user at
       the application and web server;

   receiving one or more requests from the user for access to the one or more circuit design
       resources available through the application and web server and not located on the one
       or more user nodes;

   automatically responding to the one or more requests from the user with a result of the
       ranking the one or more integrated circuit design resources in response to the one or
       more requests, and

   maintaining profile and context data of one or more users or suppliers;[[:]] and

   suggesting to the user a next action at the application and web server based upon the
       context and profile data.

70.   (Canceled)

71.   (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 69, wherein the plurality of circuit design resources comprise a plurality of virtual circuit blocks, each of the plurality of virtual component blocks being stored in one or more databases located on the application and web server and/or on one or more of the plurality of user and supplier nodes.

72.   (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 69, in which the one or more circuit design resources comprise one or more electronic design automation tools.

73.   (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 69, in which the step of automatically responding to the one or more requests from the one or more user nodes comprises:

> determining whether each of the requested one or more circuit design resources is located on the application and web server;

> acquiring each of the requested one or more circuit design resources not located on the application and web server from at least one of the one or more user and supplier nodes; and

> transmitting the requested one or more circuit design resources to the at least one of the one or more user nodes.

74.   (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 69, in which the step of automatically responding to the one or more requests from the one or more user nodes comprises:

> determining whether each of the requested one or more circuit design resources is located on the application and web server; and

> providing information to the one or more user nodes on how to access each of the requested one or more circuit design resources not located on the application and web server.

75.   (Canceled)

76.   (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 69, automatically responding to the one or more requests from the one or more user nodes comprises:

determining whether each of the requested one or more circuit design resources is located on the application and web server; and

sending information to the one or more user nodes on how to obtain each of the requested one or more circuit design resources not located on the application and web server.

77.   (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 69, in which the step of automatically responding to the one or more requests from the one or more user nodes comprises:

determining whether each of the one or more requests from the one or more user node can be fulfilled at the application and web server; and

forwarding each of the one or more requests that cannot be fulfilled at the application and web server to at least one of the one or more user and supplier nodes.

78.   (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 69, wherein the process further comprises:

maintaining prior usage information relating to the one or more requests received from one or more users at the application and web server.

79.   (Currently Amended) A system for providing remotely located circuit design resources, the system comprising:

means for connecting one or more user nodes to an application and web server over a distributed electronic network;

means for connecting one or more supplier nodes to the application and web server over the distributed electronic network;

means for making available one or more circuit design resources through the application and web server, at least one of the one or more circuit design resources being located on one of the one or more user and one or more supplier nodes;

means for ranking the one or more circuit design resources based upon a prior usage information of a user at the application and web server;

means for receiving one or more requests from the user for access to the one or more

circuit design resources available through the application and web server and not

located on the one or more user node;

means for automatically responding to the one or more requests from the user with a

result of the ranking the one or more integrated circuit design resources in response to

the one or more requests; ~~and~~

means for maintaining profile and context data of one or more users or suppliers; and

means for suggesting to at least one of the one or more user a next action at the

application and web server based upon the context and profile data.

80. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 79, in which the one or more circuit design resources comprise component data, the component data being stored in one or more databases located on the application and web server and/or on at least one of the one or more user and supplier nodes.

81. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 79, in which the one or more circuit design resources comprise one or more virtual circuit blocks, each of the one or more virtual component blocks being stored in one or more databases located on the application and web server and/or on at least one of the one or more user and supplier nodes.

82. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 79, in which the one or more circuit design resources comprise one or more electronic design automation tools.

83. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 79, in which the means for automatically responding to the one or more requests from the at least one user node comprises:

means for determining whether each of the requested one or more circuit design

resources is located on the application and web server;

means for acquiring each of the requested one or more circuit design resources not

located on the application and web server from at least one of the one or more user

and supplier nodes; and

means for transmitting the requested one or more circuit design resources to the one or more user nodes.

84. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 79, in which automatically responding to the one or more requests from the one or more user nodes comprises:

means for determining whether each of the requested one or more circuit design resources is located on the application and web server; and

means for providing information to the one or more user nodes on how to access each of the requested one or more circuit design resources not located on the application and web server.

85. (Canceled)

86. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 79, in which automatically responding to the one or more requests from the one or more user nodes comprises:

means for determining whether each of the requested one or more circuit design resources is located on the application and web server; and

means for sending information to the one or more user nodes on how to obtain each of the requested one or more circuit design resources not located on the application and web server.

87. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 79, in which the means for automatically responding to the one or more requests from the one or more user nodes comprises:

means for determining whether each of the one or more requests from the one or more user nodes can be fulfilled at the application and web server; and

means for forwarding each of the one or more requests that cannot be fulfilled at the application and web server to at least one of the one or more user and supplier nodes.

88. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 79, further comprising:

means for maintaining prior usage information relating to the one or more requests received from one or more users at the application and web server.

89.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 54 further comprising:

presenting the ranked plurality of circuit design resources to the one or more user nodes.

90.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 89, in which the step of ranking the one or more circuit design resources is performed by the application and web server.

91.   (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 69, in which the process for providing remotely located circuit design resources further comprises maintaining profile data of one or more users or suppliers at the application and web server.

92.   (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 69, in which the process for providing remotely located circuit design resources further comprises:

presenting the ranked plurality of circuit design resources to the one or more user nodes.

93.   (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 92, in which the step of ranking the one or more circuit design resources is performed by the application and web server.

94.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 79, further comprising means for maintaining profile data of one or more users or suppliers at the application and web server.

95.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 79 further comprising:

means for presenting the ranked plurality of circuit design resources to the one or more user nodes.

96.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 95, in which the means for ranking the one or more circuit design resources constitute part of the application and web server.

97.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 54, further comprising:

connecting the application and web server to at least one of a metrics database, an affinity database, or an electronic component database.

98.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 97, in which the metrics database comprises prior usage or behavioral information of one or more other users using the application and web

server, in which each of the one or more other users works on a electronic design with a similar design characteristic.

99.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 54, in which the ranking the one or more integrated circuit design resources is based upon the profile and context data of the user.